

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 305844  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY L/EB:FWILLIS  
APPROVED BY L/EB:FWILLIS  
ARA/CCA - WSMITH  
JUSTICE DEPT - EPROPPER  
S/S-O:SRPVALERGA

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P 230112Z DEC 77 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USINT HAVANA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 305844

NODIS  
FOR LYLE LANE

E.O. 11652: GDS-3

TAGS: CU, PINR

SUBJECT: ORLANDO LETELIER CASE

1. PRIOR TO TREATY SIGNATURE CEREMONY ON FRIDAY, ESCARTIN AND LOUIS GARCIA MET IN FRANK WILLIS'S OFFICE AT OUR REQUEST TO REVIEW OUR PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATION OF LETELIER CASE. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO EMPHASIZE HELPFULNESS OF CUBAN ASSISTANCE TO U.S. IF CUBA HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CASE, AND NEED FOR INFORMATION PROMPTLY AS INVESTIGATION NEARS CLOSING. GENE PROPPER, OF U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, IN CHARGE OF INVESTIGATION, MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS:

(A) IN JUNE OF 1977, NESTOR GARCIA, AT THE UN, TOLD CULVER GLYSTEN THAT THE CUBAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT  
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WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR LETELIER'S MURDER. AT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WE ASKED FOR THE NAMES OF THE PERSONS IN THAT GROUP WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE AND FOR THE BASIS OF THEIR STATEMENT THAT THIS GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE. WE HAVE NOT HAD A REPLY TO OUR REQUESTS.

(B) THE CASE HAS BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR OVER

ONE YEAR AND, IF NO INDICTMENT CAN BE OBTAINED, A REPORT WOULD BE WRITTEN, COPIES OF WHICH WOULD GO TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT. THE REPORT WOULD HAVE TO STATE, IF WE ARE UNABLE TO GET A FURTHER RESPONSE, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA TOLD US THAT IT HAD INFORMATION ON WHO HAD MURDERED LETELIER, BUT HAD NOT PROVIDED THE INFORMATION TO US DESPITE SEVERAL REQUESTS FOR HELP.

(C) LETELIER WAS A FRIEND OF CUBA AND THE CUBAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT MEMBERS, WHOM THEY BLAMED, WERE VIOLENT ENEMIES OF CUBA. THE CASE, AS ALL TERRORISM CASES, IS VERY SERIOUSLY REGARDED IN THIS COUNTRY. WE WANT TO PUT THE PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER IN JAIL.

(D) WE BELIEVED WE KNEW WHO MURDERED LETELIER BUT WE MAY NOT POSSESS ENOUGH INFORMATION TO GO TO COURT, AND THEIR INFORMATION MIGHT ASSIST US IN THAT GOAL.

2. WILLIS EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR GOVERNMENTS TO COOPERATE IN STOPPING TERRORISM AND THAT WE WERE AGAIN RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH CUBAN REPRESENTATIVES BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCCESSFULLY PROSECUTING THE LETELIER CASE. HE SAID PROPPER WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET WITH CUBAN OFFICIALS HERE, IN A THIRD COUNTRY,  
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OR IN CUBA, IF THAT WOULD FACILITATE OBTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CASE.

3. WE INDICATED YOU WOULD BE IN CONTACT WITH GARCIA IN HAVANA TO FOLLOW-UP ON OUR REQUEST, AND IF DESIRABLE ESCARTIN COULD CONTACT WILLIS AND PROPPER IN WASHINGTON IF THEY HAD FURTHER QUESTIONS, REQUESTS OR INFORMATION.  
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APPROVED BY:S/S-O:JTHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305844

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM SECSTATE WASHDC DATED DECEMBER 23, 1977  
SENT HAVANA IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

S E C R E T SATE 305844

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FOR LYLE LANE

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VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Enclosure:** FOR LYLE LANE  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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